

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 17-21, 23-28 and 30 remain pending in this application. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 17-21, 23-28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Minogue (5,397,189) in view of Chen (U.S. 6,038,614) and further in view of Fetterman (6,212,066). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that the key arrangement of Minogue is very different from that of the claimed invention.

The examiner takes the position that Minogue discloses an ergonomic keyboard, like claims 17-19 and 21, comprising, a base (10) and a plurality of keys, arranged in accordance with the QWERTY standard, located evenly on the base about a center line of the base and further arranged to form a plurality of parallel arc key rows having a same concentric center lying at the center line, wherein the concentric center is located at a side opposing to a user of the keyboard. While FIGS. 1, 2, 9 and 10 of Minogue (especially FIG. 2), at first sight, appear to be similar to Figure 3 of the present application, the devices shown are actually quite different.

Claim 1 of Minogue provides considerable insight into Minogue's FIG. 2. Claim 1 of Minogue recites an ergonomic keyboard comprising a continuous surface and further a frame or support, a plurality of keys mounted to said frame or support, said keys being arranged in a plurality of rows, each row comprised of two or more outer keys (15) and one or more central

keys (16) and being of arcuate shape wherein the central keys (16) of any row are situated closer to the user than are the outer keys (15) of said row and wherein the central keys (16) of any row are elevated above the level of the outer keys (15) of said row, and wherein rows farther from the user are higher than rows closer to the user.

In other words, the features of Minogue can be summarized as:

1. The central keys (16) of any row are situated closer to the user than are the outer keys (15) of said row;
2. The central keys (16) of any row are elevated above the level of the outer keys (15) of said row; and
3. Rows farther from the user are higher than rows closer to the user.

Referring to Minogue's FIG. 2, while the curve lines are right-left symmetrically distributed, the plurality of curve lines do not have a concentric center. Moreover, the description of Minogue's FIG. 2 does not mention how to decide the precise shape (i.e., "curivity") of the plurality of the curve lines. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Minogue does not even come close to disclosing or suggesting the key feature recited in pending claim 17, namely: a plurality of arc key rows having a concentric center lying at the center line.

Referring to FIG. 3 of the present application and pending claim 17, the claim recites:

An ergonomic keyboard, comprising:  
  
a base; and

a plurality of keys, located evenly on the base about a center line of the base and further arranged to form a plurality of arc key rows having a concentric center lying at the center line;

a plurality of non-standard function keys, arranged in a group, located at an upper edge of said base, away from said keys; and

a pair of fasteners for fixing said keyboard to a computer unit;

wherein said non-standard function keys enhance the usability of said keyboard, and said fasteners are located on an upper edge of said base.

Even in the description of Minogue's FIG. 2 (col. 5, lines 14-21), and as can best be seen from the topographical lines shown in FIG. 2, the keys within each of said rows are placed at increasing heights toward the center of said row, so that the central keys (16) are elevated above the level of the outer keys (15).

Referring to the topographical lines of FIG. 2, it can be seen that the rows farther from the user edge (12) are placed at increasing heights above the rows closer to the user. Such a configuration still does not disclose the feature of pending claim 17, wherein a plurality of arc key rows have a concentric center lying at the center line.

Thus, while Minogue discloses a keyboard having a curved key structure, the reference simply fails to disclose the expressly recited feature of claim 17 that requires the curves to have a particular configuration. Without a suggestion to modify the configuration of that described in Minogue, Applicant submits that it is improper to rely on Minogue, by itself, to show the specifically claimed key curving feature of the claimed ergonomic keyboard.

None of secondary references overcomes the deficiencies of Minogue described above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made in this case. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

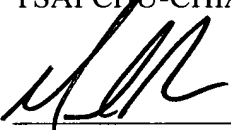
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